

Rabbit Virus Release - March 2017

Following on from a EOI submission earlier this year regarding release sites for the new strain of rabbit bio control calcivirus RHDV- K5, South West NRM was successful in having three site locations approved:

1. Ward River area (west of Charleville)
2. Cuttaburra Channels area (south west of Cunnamulla)
3. Lower Bulloo Lakes area (south of Thargomindah).

Prior to releasing the virus at each site, South West NRM will undertake rabbit pre-feeding, and conduct the release at a designated time. Staff will also conduct a three night spotlight count with a vehicle or on foot using standard methods both immediately before and one month after the release. Then, they will collect a sample from approximately five dead rabbits within the first two weeks after the release of the virus to confirm their cause of death.

For further information, please visit the [RabbitScan](#) or [PestSmart](#) webpages, where you can find information on how to sample diseased rabbits, how to do a spotlight count, and also download the FeralScan app to record all of your rabbit information.



Above: A rabbit destroyed within a fragile ecosystem in the Bulloo Catchment.

CAM Phase Two Update:

The Collaborative Area Management (CAM) Phase Two project is progressing well throughout the area, with a large portion of the clusters having received the first load of materials and commenced fencing.

South West NRM Chair, Mark O'Brien joined cluster members, Scott Sargood and Allan Cann (pictured below) to inspect the fencing efforts of the Wellwater Cluster in late October, where a significant portion of the fence is now completed and the full job is expected to be completed by Christmas. "South West NRM is proud of how quickly we have delivered the rollout of this project and put the money into fences", said Mr. O'Brien.



Cluster members are now in the process of learning data collection techniques for monitoring environmental and economic changes within their clusters.

Left: South West NRM Board Chair Mark O'Brien (centre) meets with Scott Sargood and Allan Cann from the Wellwater CAM Cluster to discuss their project's progress.